Remarks

Election/Restrictions and response

In the office action, the present application is considered to contain claims which directed to more than one species of the generic invention. These species are deemed to lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In response, Applicant withdraws claims 5 to 14. The following arguments are aimed at claims 1 to 4.

Rejections to claims 1, 3 and 4

In the Office Action, claims1, 3-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi Shigetoshi (JP 2001-095201) in view of Engmann et al (US 4,483,490) and further in view of Yang (US 6, 373, 603).

In response, Applicant has incorporated claim 2 into claim 1 and correspondingly modified the dependencies of claims 3 and 4.

In view of the forgoing, currently amended independent claim 1 includes all of the limitation of allowable claim 2 as set forth in the outstanding Office Action and, consequently, is respectfully submitted to be patentable over the cited references or any combination thereof and in condition for allowance.

Currently amended claims 2 and 3 are directly dependent on independent claim 1. Each of them not only recites all the features recited in independent claim 1, but also adds additional feature(s), respectively. Since independent claim 1 is patentable over the cited references or any combination thereof, dependent claims 2 and 3 directly dependent thereon should also be patentable over the cited references and in condition for allowance.

Conclusions

Summarizing above, Applicant respectfully submits that all the pending claims of the present application are patentable over the cited references or any combination thereof and in condition for allowance. An act to this effect on an earlier date is earnestly requested.

Appl. No. 10/565,092

Amdt. Date: January 16, 2009

Reply to Office action of October 31, 2008

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 16, 2009

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